



Youth Moves Towards Socialism

Socialist Program Wins at World Student Congress

STUDENT L.I.D. DELEGATE TELLS STORY

by Morris Milgram

New York—Returning from the World Student Congress Against War and Fascism, held in Belgium, Dec. 29-31, 1934, three members of the Student League for Industrial Democracy are full of enthusiasm about the progress which students have been making all over the world in the fight for peace and civil liberties. From thirty-one countries, from every continent, more than 500 delegates came to the Congress, bringing reports of increased militancy in the student movement.

Fifty That Did Not Die!

Notable among the reports of student action against war and Fascism were some from South America. About fifty Paraguayan students resident at Montivideo, Uruguay, had been ordered by their government to leave for service on the Gran Chaco front. Montivideo antifascist students persuaded the fifty that the Gran Chaco war was one of British versus American imperialism, and by a great student demonstration prevented their departure. In Argentine, a 24-hour student strike was a brilliant example of unified student expression.

From Austria, where Fascist terror reigns, came reports of a powerful student organization, affiliated to the International Socialist Student International, which has several hundred members in the University of Vienna, and publishes an excellent underground newspaper named "Rote Vorhut."

Cheer U. S. Student Strike

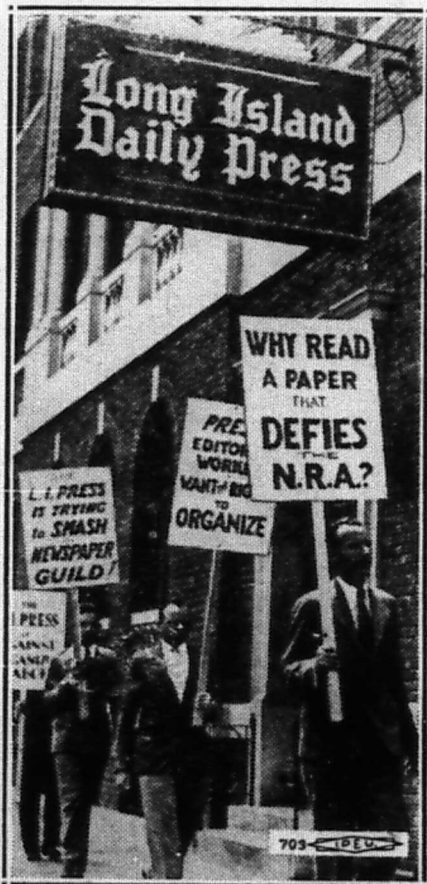
Sanford Solender, LID'er from New York University, who had been elected spokesman for the U. S. delegation of seven, received thunderous applause when he told of the student strike against war, in which more than 25,000 students participated last April 13. Lyonel Florant, organizer of the Student LID at Howard U., presented a report on the Negro student and was elected to the World Committee of the Congress as representing American Negro students. In the U. S. delegation were official representatives of the Student LID and the NSL, as well as delegates from such bodies as the North Carolina Methodist Student Conference, the N.Y.U. student council, and the Columbia U. anti-war committee.

The International Socialist Student Federation occupied a leading and unique position at the Congress. The ISSF presented a socialist program—that the fight against war and fascism must be one against the existing social system and for a socialist state. The members of the resolution committee did not disagree with the ISSF, but argued that it would be impossible to get liberal students to follow such a program. So effectively did the ISSF present its program that the point it made was adopted—in different words. In effect, the Manifesto of the Congress states that the present decaying capitalist system is responsible for the worldwide chaos, and calls for a new social order without exploitation of man by man.

As a result of the World Congress the united struggle of Socialist, Communist and liberal students against war and Fascism will be carried into every college, where committees will

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White Collar Workers Strike Too



Winning victory after victory for reporters, the Newspapermen's Guild is conducting strikes on several New Jersey papers. Shown left above is scene from this union's first strike. The right hand picture shows one of the 60 employees fired by the S. Klein clothing store of New York for union activity. White collar workers are becoming union-conscious too!

LABOR SPORTS GROUPS PLAN AMALGAMATION

Since last summer, steps have gone forward to amalgamate the several working-class sports sections of America. At a conference held September 30, 1934, representatives of the three largest organizations in America were represented: The Finnish Workers' Amateur Athletic Association (W.A.A.A.) whose main centers of activity are in New England; the German Workers' Gymnastic and Sport Alliance whose stronghold is in New York and New Jersey, though with branches as far west as Chicago; and the D. T. J. of the Czechoslovaks with many mid-west clubs. All these groups are affiliated with the Socialist Workers' Sports International, of which Julius Deutsch, hero of the Austrian Socialist revolt who recently toured America, is President.

Delegates of the three alliances are coming together again this February to hear reports of the progress of unification plans. Socialists and their friends throughout the country who are interested in building the workers' sports movement by building local clubs or joining organizations where such exist should write The Challenge, 549 Randolph St., Chicago.

Unions Vote Scholarships For Labor College

Chicago (FP)—Local unions are voting funds to establish scholarships for their members at the Chicago Labor College. Postal clerks and photo engravers have voted 25 scholarships each, and millinery workers, pocketbookmakers and stereotypers have voted 50 each, according to Director Sam Berger. The attendance this term is 150 against 100 last term. The Y.P.S.L. of Chicago is an affiliated organization and many of its members are enrolled.

Chicago League Fights Military Education Plans

Chicago — The Chicago Board of Education, long in the public spotlight during its budget reducing campaign and during the unpaid teacher's demonstrations, again made news when its Budget Committee last month recommended the extension of the R.O.T.C. from 17 high schools that now have units to all 34 high schools in the city. The new budget provides, in addition, an increase in the salaries of the army sergeants in charge of the R.O.T.C. These expenditures for military training are being made without an increase in the size of the budget, thus making necessary further cuts in the educational services of the school system.

The Young People's Socialist League members attending high schools are taking a leading part in the campaign to unite the students, parents, and teachers against the R.O.T.C. program. Young Socialists were already circulating petitions and distributing printed leaflets protesting the encroachment of military training into education on the Monday following the announcement of the program in the papers of the preceding Friday. A series of mass meetings in the neighborhoods of many of the high schools is being carried through and a systematic leaflet distribution campaign is underway to rouse the students to action against the proposed plans.

Oberlin, Ohio—Senator Nye, chairman of the Senate munitions committee, will speak at an Anti-War conference to take place at Oberlin College on March 1 and 2. Round tables on the causes of war and methods for combatting war will be held, and will send in resolutions that will aid in formulating a definite program for the college youth.

CLASS JUSTICE FOR LABOR ORGANIZERS

Stanley Glass faces a long term in prison. Stanley Glass is "guilty" of having organized a picket line in the Baldwin Shovel Plant strike in West Virginia last August. Stanley Glass is "guilty" of being secretary-treasurer and guiding spirit of the West Virginia Unemployed Leagues. Stanley Glass is "guilty" of being a Socialist. Only 22 years old he has won esteem and honor from his fellow workers in all these organizations and struggles.

Ward Rodgers too is "guilty," has already been fined \$500 and faces a prison term. Ward Rodgers is "guilty" of organizing the exploited share-croppers into the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union against the wishes of the well-to-do cotton planters who regard these 'croppers' as their serfs. Besides 24 year old Ward Rodgers who is a member of the state executive committee of the Socialist Party of Arkansas, four other Socialists, two Negro and two white, have been arrested for organizing for the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union. They face, if convicted, sentences to the state penal farm—the equivalent of a sentence to a Georgia chain gang.

Funds for defense are urgently needed! Paul Porter, national labor secretary, Socialist Party, 549 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill., will transmit your contribution to the local defense committee.

National Congress Of Youth Adopts Radical Program

PRO-LABOR ALIGNMENT ADVOCATED BY YPSL

by R. G. Oxford

Washington, D. C.—Simultaneously with the presentation of President Roosevelt's message to Congress, and just a few blocks away, another congress was demonstrating that the depression, the dangers of war and the growth of Fascism were making a deep mark on the minds of American Youth. The national Youth Congress, meeting in Washington, January 4 and 5, called by the Continuation Committee of the first American Youth Congress, drew up plans for pushing its fight on war preparations, on Fascism, and for relief of the unemployment and poverty among youth caused by the depression.

Youth Bolts Reaction

The American Youth Congress was born last August in the attempts of an ambitious and well-financed young woman, Viola Ilma, to force American youth to endorse a reactionary program, looking forward to the CCC, subsistence homesteads, and pro-militaristic program, etc., rather than a progressive solution for their problems. Her attempts, because of the nature of her program and the dictatorial manner in which she attempted to run the Congress, resulted in her displacement from the control of the Congress and her withdrawal from it. The Congress then went ahead to adopt a progressive program vigorously opposed to war and Fascism and looking forward to a new social order based on production for use and not for profit.

Since then local congresses have been held in various parts of the country. Some have failed miserably, some have succeeded. Excellent ones have been held in Michigan and New York. The Young People's Socialist League played an especially prominent part in the New York Congress, one of the most representative and constructive held. Here, very clearly, the genuine concern that so-called conservative youth has for the future could be seen. Representatives from important Y.M.C.A., Y.M.H.A. and church groups spoke realistically of the problems of war, fascism and unemployment and showed a willingness to grapple with these problems.

Young Socialists Aggressive

At all times the Young People's Socialist League has taken the aggressive to make the Congress as representative as possible of all genuinely progressive youth and to give it a progressive program. It sponsored a resolution at the Washington Congress, instructing the National Continuations Committee to enlarge itself, with additional representatives from non-radical organizations. It has pointed out that Youth alone cannot solve its problems and that the Congress can have value only as it becomes a part of the great social movement directed toward a fundamental transformation of modern society.

In a symposium held over radio station WEVD on the New York Youth Congress, in which N. D. Hoyt of the Y.M.C.A. and George Brussels, Jr., of the American Jewish Congress also spoke, Gus Tyler reiterated the Y.P.S.L. position that the Youth Congress must be reoriented toward the labor movement if it is to be successful:

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Socialists Begin Organization Drive For Negro Labor

New York City—Opened by an eloquent address on the purpose of the meeting by Noah C. A. Walter, secretary of the Harlem Labor Committee and member of the national executive committee of the Young People's Socialist League, the largest and most significant meeting in the history of Negro labor was held in the Harlem section of New York city. More than 3,000 Negro workers and many hundred white unionists filled the hall in a manifestation of solidarity inspired by the Socialist-led committee of which Comrade Frank Crosswaite is chairman.

"Fight for Yourselves!"

Completely absent from the meeting was any sort of patronizing air or effusive "brotherly love" gestures as characterize all too many interracial meetings of wealthier classes of negroes and whites. Instead, a healthy straight-from-the-shoulder attitude was maintained as illustrated by the words of William Collins, New York representative of the A. F. of L. in urging the Negroes to fight for themselves. "The labor movement," he said, "is not perfect by any means. Many unions have been in the past, and some still are, unfair to the Negro. The A. F. of L. recently informed unions which discourage Negro membership that such practices must end or else drastic action would be taken.

"Negro labor must develop its own leaders and stop waiting to be patronized. Nobody is going to give the Negro anything. When you have to tighten your belt on an empty stomach, you will realize that there is but one way to obtain economic and social justice, and that is by labor organization."

The Commonwealth Plan for Socialism in Our Time

by Arthur G. McDowell

A Socialist Program For America, Written by Paul Porter and Published by the Committee on Education and Research of the Socialist Party of the United States of America.

The Commonwealth Plan altho the program of an entire working class political movement is nevertheless associated with the name of an individual. Paul Porter, the principal author of the plan and the personality bound up with its origin, is the son of a mid-western American family, who along with many of his generation was first aroused to a realization of a political and social America which was sadly out of step with a revolutionized power age of economics, amid the comparatively peaceful and isolated scenes of a college campus.

However just as a true flint and steel inevitably throw off sparks when struck together, so a growing rebellious and questioning spirit drew fire from the forces of caste privilege and vested interest which have their expression in militarism, complacency and class distinction on the campus as elsewhere. Paul Porter emerged from college openly a rebel.

He became travelling student organizer for the League for Industrial Democracy, founded by Jack London and other rebels many years before the world war as the Intercollegiate Socialist Society. He turned up in the midst of the Elizabethtown Tennessee textile strike in 1929 and was deemed important enough by the mill bosses to be the subject of a frame-up plot charge of carrying explosives.

LABOR FRONT CALLS STUDENT REBEL

From 1929 onward Paul Porter's eager young enthusiasm turned his attention more and more from student work to the labor movement proper. In 1932 he was a national organizer for the Socialist Party during the Presidential campaign. In the opening of 1933 he accepted the ungrateful task of Executive Secretary for the Socialist Party Local in Philadelphia. Scarcely having taken over his task when the New Deal came to power and through its NRA stung the trade union movement into new life, Porter plunged into the maelstrom of labor industrial struggles: radio workers, teamsters, ship yards workers and taxi drivers, the latter union of which he served as President during one of the swiftest moving strikes in Philadelphia labor history.

Just as the first wave of labor's upsurge under the New Deal began to recede temporarily came an apparent personal and organization tragedy. Months of ceaseless and frequently sleepless activity on labor's fighting front brought on a physical collapse. The doctor's stern edict was exile to a tuberculosis sanitarium for a year or—death.

Of to a remote sanitarium to review in enforced quiet the rapid moving events of the foregoing five years, Paul Porter in that drab exile began to formulate the Commonwealth Plan, a Socialist Plan for America to enable the mass of its workers and farmers to inherit the vast plenty which was theirs but which an out-worn social and economic system prevented them from inheriting and even ironically transformed into the cause of unbelievable misery and suffering.

A 1934 National Convention of the Socialist Party was close at hand. Into the late pre-convention discussion came the Commonwealth Plan, a raw and beardless boy compared with the traditional formulations of Socialist program in conventional American political party platform style—almost friendless in a Convention rocked by old and new theoretical questions and problems which the Commonwealth Plan either grasped with fearless firmness or flatly ignored. The Plan came so close to immediate adoption in its unfinished form that the Congressional platform adopted was left standing by the convention in an awkward unfinished state, scarcely designed to be more than an introduction to some form of the Commonwealth Plan.

A long range discussion between the sanitarium exile and the slightly stiffly orthodox Socialist Party Committees on Education and Research and Literature ensued. Revisions so mangled the original draft that its author was permitted to write the entire program over again and it was finally adopted on the very eve of the 1934 Congressional elections too late to be a factor in that campaign.



PAUL PORTER

The hesitation of the Socialist Party to put forward a too clear cut program was reflected in the 1934 election. Therein the vast mass of the workers and farmers made political history by flatly refusing to turn in any degree at all, back to the stand-patism of Herbert Hoover's Republican Party but in spite of disillusionment with the alphabet soup of the New Deal's attempt to restore capitalism through planned scarcity, clung tightly to such evidences of improvement over the dark days of 1933 as they could find, and voted for Roosevelt and Recovery.

LABOR REINVIGORATED TAKES AGGRESSIVE

However, vast new forces were at work. The author of the Commonwealth Plan was released from hospital to become Socialist Party National Labor Secretary. He sat as a delegate in the annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor in San Francisco and heard the new voices of freshly organized workers in basic industries clamor for an aggressive industrial unionism and independent political action. Not as yet a majority, they were a portent of other conventions to come where their voice would be louder.

Wounded and aroused by the unashamed use of brutal and illegal force by governors of Republican and Democratic parties alike during the great textile strike of 1934, smarting under the thousands of insults and delays of the employer dominated NRA machinery and labor boards, organized labor's resentment mounted and with it a new sense of power born of such things as the formally repudiated General Strike in San Francisco and growing membership in main industries. Fascism was laying waste hard earned gains of the working class in central Europe arousing the trade unions to a sense of danger and accompanying international solidarity.

A clear tocsin of alarm was rung when in the last days of 1934, the anti-union munitions magnates sounded the demand for preparation for dictatorship in case of and possibly even in preparation for war, and army officers of the supposedly New Deal Democratic war office announced the end of section 7-a and all collective bargaining as part and parcel of their "national defense plans." In self preservation the masses of labor were at the beginning of 1935 turning to aggressive action in their own behalf.

With this introduction the author of this article with the Commonwealth Plan as a foundation ventures into the future in an effort to formulate a possible, though not necessarily probable course of events as a means of illustrating the Plan.

CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT BY WORKERS AND FARMERS

Sweeping control of the powers of government on a nation wide scale by a political party of the organized workers and farmers with a Socialist goal of plenty for all is the first and foundation stone upon which the Commonwealth Plan is laid. Within the next four to eight years one of two things will occur. Some version of the New Deal may continue skirting the edges of Fascism in its attempt to preserve capitalism while equally vainly attempting to adequately reform certain evils of a decaying system as they affect particular classes.

Without the labor class political base which

alone would enable it to sufficiently limit the powers of the industrial and financial owning class to stop some of the more obvious running sores the liberal middle class New Deal will fail. This would result if only from the inconsistency of trying to remedy multiplying evils by remedies none of which correspond with a central plan and many of which like the NRA and the AAA cancel each other out.

The unemployed will not go back to work. Even the prosperity of the middle class and skilled working class of the 20's will not be approached. Profits may increase for large corporations but the standard of living of the masses will sink steadily, if gradually. The demand for foreign trade at any price, the temptation to armament rivalry with other powers seeking the same markets will grow. It will be the spectacle of increasing poverty in the midst of glittering plenty and the danger of complete explosion of civilization in war, fanned each year nearer a white heat.

Or the New Deal will surrender its liberal array and move in the direction of the Fascism which has been the ultimate form of the attempt to save capitalism in Europe; or perhaps give way to such a movement. The triumph of reaction would hasten the pace of sweeping disaster either through international war or a sudden boom of industry to be followed by a bursting in air of the tragic attempt to operate the power machinery of plenty within the limits of the social form of a hand labor society of scarcity.

Perhaps in a three-cornered race between the Socialists with their Commonwealth Plan, the Fascists or extreme reactionaries and the middle of the roaders corresponding to the present New Dealers, a Socialist President and Congress will be swept into power much as was Lincoln in 1860. On the other hand a crushing disaster like the collapse of 1933 might give the Socialists the overwhelming power and trust which Roosevelt had in his first few months.

The two months between the announcement of the results of the election and the assumption of power of the New Commonwealth Plan Party would be dangerous ones. In 1861 it was twice as long but the Norris lame duck amendment has cut the period. Any moves to frustrate the verdict of the polls by reactionaries or their hirelings would probably have to be met by the convening of some powerful Continental Congress of Workers and Farmers armed with the power of general strike against any counter revolutionary action of the large owning class.

Any outbreak of large scale violence either by Fascist bands or secessionist governors of reactionary states would be met by full use of the armed forces of the state. This would involve reorganization of the military forces in order to place in command only those loyal to the new Socialist government. It might even involve the calling to service of a quarter of a million volunteers for an entirely new force, as large sections of the professional army men would as in 1861 be found to prefer to change the color of their uniform in order to fight for the old and reactionary social system with which they identify themselves. The state militias of States captured for the Socialist Party in the course of march toward power from 1936 forward would be a convenient base for any new force.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDUSTRY

Three main measures would be presented to Congress immediately subsequent to the necessary steps to safeguard the power of its legal authority. These would be in order, laws decreeing that all natural resources such as minerals, forests and water power sites, and all basic industries such as mining, manufacture of steel, automobiles and textiles, and all banks, insurance companies and public utilities were henceforth national property which could under no circumstances be alienated from the common store.

A second series of laws would provide for the orderly transfer of these properties to the nation as trustees in exchange for Commonwealth Bonds equal to a fair value of the properties as fixed by a National Assessment Board. These Commonwealth Bonds would bear no interest but would be paid off at the rate of 5% annually until the end of twenty

years they would become void. The income from these bonds will of course be taxable under the inheritance and income taxes.

A third group of laws would set up a General Planning Board with wide emergency powers appointed by the President with the Consent of Congress. This planning board would immediately set quotas of production for each industry based on estimates of the need of the entire population. Each industry as it is ready for transfer from private to public control will be requested to elect delegates to an industrial Congress from the ranks of organized manual, clerical and technical workers, of producers of raw materials and the consumers of the finished products. These congresses with the aid of the General Planning Board will set up the public corporations and their representative boards which shall govern the industry according to its needs.

The first concern of the Socialist government in its Commonwealth Plan will be to see that without waiting for new methods of exchange to be worked out, plenty of purchasing power is placed in the hands of the mass of the people through a 30-hour week with a minimum \$1 an hour wage for the poorest worker to be increased as fast as idle industry can be put to work and new industry built where and if needed.

As part of the historic political alliance between worker and farmer needed to achieve power for Socialism in the United States the farmer will be guaranteed in the use and occupancy of his farm as long as he works it himself. An Agricultural Marketing Administration will be created to handle and guarantee an adequate food supply through advance contracts with the farmer to take a set quota of his production at prices fixed in advance to guarantee him an income equal to the increasing one of the city workers. Cooperative farms may be set up by those farmers who care to seize on the natural advantages of combination with the help of the government.

PLENNING FOR PLENTY IS KEY TO PLAN

The key to the Commonwealth Plan is planning for plenty just as the New Deal haphazardly plans for scarcity. The mass of the American people have the material heritage to enable them to secure in this power age plenty and peace for themselves and their descendants. The Commonwealth plan by enabling them to own and govern collectively those things they must use collectively will enable them in a short time to come into their own. The unemployment which is today made into a curse of the introduction of the power machine must in logical course under the Commonwealth plan be turned into constructive leisure by the reduction of hours as more and more success crowns the organization of industry and agriculture for the production of plenty for use instead of mixed scarcity and plenty for private profit, the privilege necessarily of a few.

The Commonwealth which these revolutionary changes will establish will have a long road. Taxation must be used both as an instrument of socialization and as a weapon against disturbers of the peace, at least at first. A Socialist government will not find it necessary to dump abroad goods of human use which its workers cannot afford to buy. The mad search for markets will not therefore need great navies and armies posted from Havana to Shanghai in jealous guard as does the present U. S. capitalist order. All trade will be conducted by a trading corporation with a commonsense policy of exchanging with other nations to mutual advantage. The costs of great armed forces ready to destroy enemy commerce if trade war of capitalists becomes the fiercer war of armed imperialism, will be done away with. The armed forces can be reduced to proportions necessary to guard against reaction at home or its fascist allies abroad.

The time has passed when Socialists were visionaries. Today their Commonwealth Plan is the only alternative to the failing New Deal or a retreat into darkness. When Workers and Farmers in vast numbers organize and start marching in the next few years in their own defense as they have never marched before, they will bend their steps with a stubborn determination towards the Commonwealth Plan of the Socialist Movement.

THE CHALLENGE

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On Father Coughlin

On November 11, Armistice Day of 1934, Father Coughlin in his regular broadcast called upon all interested in achieving an economic order for the interests of the majority as against the "wicked minority" who have concentrated the wealth of the nation in their hands, to join the National Union for Social Justice.

No profound insight is required to see the similarities between Father Coughlin's movement and those movements in Italy and Germany, which at their birth held out bright and glowing prospects of social justice to the working class, but once they gained power, lost no time in turning upon the workers with violence and hatred and deprived the majority of all freedom and rights, and crushed labor organizations and trampled them underground.

Like Hitler, Father Coughlin sets himself up as a "Fuehrer"—or leader. Thus the National Union for Social Justice is the product of a single man, a promoter placing himself in the position of head and guide, drawing up the organizational program, locating and controlling the funds and headquarters of the organization, responsible in no way to the membership.

As for the program itself, it is vague and con-

fusing, aiming basically at the utter impossibility of "production for use and profit," at the same time. Allow the profit motive to operate at all and the "use" motive fades into the background. Allow the profit motive to operate and we must find always on the one hand a small group of owners and on the other a large group of wage workers who can never receive the full benefit of what they create. We find again that society is divided into those who have and those who haven't. Capitalism, in short, though perhaps under a new name.

Not one word in the sixteen point program of the National Union for Social Justice describes their position on democratic government and its indispensable cornerstones, freedom of speech, press and assemblage.

Father Coughlin would have labor stripped of its most powerful means of protest—the right to strike! Is labor to blindly follow this self-made leader, trusting thereby to improve its lot? Or is it to exercise its own power, which alone can be trusted, to wage its struggle against indecent living and working standards?

The Young People's Socialist League of America contends that the interests of the workers will not be served by the Coughlin movement, which is bound to work against the producing and consuming masses of our land in spite of its fine phrases and promises. We must not be misled by Coughlin's ranting demagoguery at the capitalists, Wall Street and the International Bankers. It means but little. Mussolini talked that way. So did Hitler! Let the working masses of America learn a lesson from their unfortunate brothers across the sea.

We reaffirm our view that only by Organization, Education and Solidarity in Our Time, under the banners of the Socialist Party of the United States and the Young People's Socialist League of America, can we attain social justice and economic and political democracy.

MUNITIONS BY-PRODUCTS

Around his bedside ghosts did walk,
They did not move, they did not talk;
One had no arms, one had no eyes,
One was stiff—as paralyzed.

One jerked and jumped, he had a shock,
These shattered ghosts, this man did mock;
But he is hard, he did not quake,
Though he these wrecks of humans make,

Cripples, corpses, sad mothers, and wives,
It was his job to shatter lives;
He kills these men with pen and paper,
For he is a munitions maker.

by Alwyn Stevenson, Circle 1 Sr.,
Bridgeport, Conn.

SOLIDARITY

By the National Industrial
Secretary of YPSL.

As winter's winds stem the
strike tide young Socialists
continue the battle of their
class.

Inevitably, winter's arrival means for the working class that the emphasis of its eternal struggle for existence is shifted from the red fight against the exploiters of its own kind to the long white fight with the elements. So it is in the winter of 1934-35. Although the red fire fanned by the historic strikes in the summer and fall of '34 is still burning, the flames are dimmed by the weakness of a depression-starved people barely able to marshal sufficient energy to fight off the onslaught of cold and hunger. But though diminished in intensity, the fight against the exploiters goes on, and as always, young Socialists proudly fight with their class.

New York City: Still leading the League in industrial work is the New York City Federation. Over ten unions are receiving active support of Young Socialists at the present time, while much hard work is being done towards promoting the National Conference of Unemployed Organizations to be held in Washington, March 2-4, through the Worker's Unemployed Union. Jack Lynn is the new Industrial Director of this city and has been placed on the National Industrial Committee by the NEC.

Binghamton, N. Y.: The skilled and unskilled workers in the numerous chemical plants of this city are being organized by comrades in these fields. Workers in the Engineering and allied trades are participating in this campaign for the betterment of their working conditions.

Toledo: Tho the Captains and the Kings of the labor movement have departed with the cessation of the General Strike, the Toledo Yipsels are still valiantly picketing in the long enduring strike of the journeymen tailors.

Cleveland: Wet, but not cold, feet were cheerfully endured by the west-bound NEC members, Challenge Editor, and visiting Chicago comrades who added their numbers and lusty voices to that of over 200 members of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union and Cleveland Yipsels as they picketed the L. N. Gross Housedress Mfg. Co. in the raw morning of a pouring, drenching winter rain sweeping off of Lake Erie. Hy Fish, member of the National Industrial Committee of the YPSL, and a peppy, eager-eyed girl striker, led the snappy line in rousing songs that warmed with admiration, the hearts of the early morning office workers on their way to work.

Philadelphia: Always something doing in the Quaker city! This time comrades are in the midst of a whirlwind campaign to unionize the paper-box industry. Alex Wollod of this city has been added to the National Industrial Committee by the NEC.

International: "Give work to youth!" Launched under this slogan for the protection of unemployed youth, the Socialist Youth International is having all affiliated organizations circulate a petition addressed to the International Labor Conference of the League of Nations. The petition will ask that measures be adopted to secure opportunities for work and vocational training for the millions of young unemployed and that relief be given to those for whom jobs are not secured. The Cleveland meeting of the national executive committee voted to cooperate with the Socialist Youth International in this drive and to circulate this petition in a broadened form so it may be presented also to the Congress of the U. S. A.

Industrial Directors Attention! Plans are under way to place Yipsels in the basic industries of towns where circles now exist. Send in names and camp addresses of all Socialists and sympathizers now in CCC camps. Stories of activities should be sent to The Challenge, 549 Randolph St., Chicago.

State Federation Is Aim of Ohio YPSL

Cleveland—What promises to become the sixth state federation of the Young People's Socialist League, was provisionally organized at a conference of delegates from Ohio circles, held at this city, Jan. 19 and 20, during the sessions of the National Executive Committee. In addition to the three Cleveland circles, representatives from Toledo, Yellow Springs, Akron and Fletcher were present, with Warren and Massillon unable to send delegates. Oberlin and Cincinnati, where excellent prospects for circle organization exist, were also represented.

An Ohio State YPSL convention, to be held simultaneously with the Socialist Party convention of that state, was planned. An outline of organization, largely based on the Pennsylvania model, was adopted as a basis for pre-convention discussion. Pearl Weiner of Cleveland was elected temporary secretary to carry forward the work of the conference, with offices at 407 Prospect-Fourth Bldg., Cleveland.



Books

PELLE THE CONQUEROR by Martin
Anderson Nexo New York, Peter
Smith & Co., \$3.75

It is a long time since "The Jungle" was written, and now one may go into a bookshop in almost any American city and find a dozen novels about the working class in brightly colored jackets which show they have found their way into everyday reading. There are books about the working class, even some for the working class, but until one has read "Pelle the Conqueror" it is hard to realize the lack of books that really have come out of the working class.

There are two reasons for this. The first is that working class esthetics, as Nexo himself pointed out, are generally outside the field of what is known as art and literature, the second, which applies to America, is that we have no class conscious proletariat which can produce its own culture.

Pelle The Youth

"Pelle the Conqueror" is the story of a Danish workman of a generation ago, and hence of the North and Central European labor movements. It is well to remember that it is also largely the story of the author's own life, when looking at some of the incredible pictures he paints. The curtain rises on an island off the coast, where Pelle sets out to conquer the world for the first time—as a small boy in the keeping of his middle aged father, who has come in search of work. They hire themselves out to a large farm, and here Pelle grows up, the two living together in a partitioned off section of the stable, with only straw for furniture.

As a peasant boy Pelle gradually comes to understand nature, though he is not so successful with human beings. He is a member of the lowest stratum of society, even in farm life (his father is the dung carter), and there is no compensating protection for his sensitivity. At the age of fifteen he goes forth to conquer once more, this time in the world of people. He leaves the farm and becomes a shoemaker's apprentice in the islands little town. Here Pelle's inferior social position is a barrier which leaves very little room for his development. He sees his own and others' efforts to rebel hopelessly crushed down, until he surrenders and begins to lead an animal existence. From this he is saved by a few friends of his own class, who manage to send him off to Copenhagen.

Pelle The Labor Leader

In Copenhagen Pelle finds himself among the urban proletariat and witnesses their miserable attempts to

live like human beings. Also the beginnings of a Democratic movement, to immediately attaches himself a display of ability and enters. He becomes a leader and slowly how the long-suffering patience of the nordic proletariat can be converted into long-suffering stubbornness. The Movement grows by small victories here and there, until the upper class makes a great frontal attack to wipe it out, a general lock-out. His class, which has just emerged from a winter of privation, shows its ability to suffer for months longer.

Pelle moves about like lightning, strengthening the lines, giving encouragement, executing strategic maneuvers. But the workmen's life is not designed for any but a dull routine existence, and Pelle loses his wife and his new home in giving himself to the Movement. The lockout and counter strike reach a stalemate, and finally Pelle learns the supreme lesson of the class struggle; he stops thinking about the "public" and "public" opinion and falls back entirely on class solidarity. The street cleaners are called out (to give the parasites a taste of slum sanitation conditions) and he is ready to call out the workmen in the gas and water works. The upper class is brought to its knees, though Pelle goes to jail for it. At last he has conquered.

Pelle The Co-operator

The story might have ended here, but it doesn't. Seven years later, when Pelle emerges from prison, a terrible change has come over the Movement. It has left behind the lowest strata of the working class, the unskilled and the unemployed. It has become recognized and respectable, reformist and parliamentarian. The dissatisfied younger elements have turned to Anarchism and direct action, which is the only form of struggle they know. Pelle finds what he thinks is the solution. He founds a movement of producers' cooperatives. By this, he and Nexo believe, he will be able to build socialism from within the framework of the capitalist economic structure. It is significant that Nero has to bring in an eccentric capitalist to finance the project. He relies on the irresistible slow-moving strength of the working class to accomplish his object. And the book ends as Pelle's steamroller gets under way.

But there is dynamite on the road ahead. War, fascism, guerrilla attacks. The steam roller of 1906 (when the book was written) has stalled. Pelle, and Socialism have set out to conquer the world for yet another time. And just as the patient resignation of our class was changed to stubborn resistance, so now it is turning to sterner ways. —Melos Most.

YPSL ACTIVE AT YOUTH CONGRESS

Tyler Broadcasts On American Congress

(Continued from page 1)

Working Class Bears Torch of Progress

"The torch bearer of progress is no longer, as in 1789, the capitalist class, as opposed to the nobility. Today it is the modern working class which is the champion of a new social order of peace, plenty and freedom. We are of the opinion that if the American Youth Congress is to live as a champion of progress it must look upon itself as the frank ally of the working class movement in its daily struggles and in its ultimate objectives.

"The modern working class movement, can offer the American Youth movement something more than a progressive alignment. It can offer us great armies of trained and disciplined fighters, the modern labor unions. We of the Young People's Socialist League look toward the organized labor movement as this instrumentality in the America of today. To the extent that the labor unions and the youth movement can be fused into one consistent body with a progressive pro-labor program, to that extent will youth be able to make its contribution to the fight for human liberation."

Six students at the University of New Hampshire were exempted from compulsory R.O.T.C. work because of conscientious objections.

BRITISH UNIVERSITY YOUTH CONVENTION

(Continued from page 1)

be set up to carry on the work of the Congress.

At British Student Conference

As the fraternal delegate of the Student LID, the writer attended the fifteenth annual conference of the University Labour Federation in Yorkshire, England. At the conference the delegates from the various colleges presented reports of their work and organization. Although the U.L.F. does not have a single paid worker, it has made fine progress in some of the English seats of higher learning. For example, at Oxford University, which has a registration of about 3,000 the Labour Club has a membership of 630. Leading socialists address the membership once a week. The club runs five study groups per week, puts out a term magazine, "Oxford Forward," and is active in labor struggles. Other colleges are carrying on similar activity.

At the U.L.F. conference students discussed the problems of the labour movement, showing keen interest in the work of the Labour Party, to which the federation is affiliated. This conference of the University Labour Federation, as well as the World Student Congress against War and Fascism, should give inspiration and confidence to the Student League for Industrial Democracy, for they were both eloquent proof of the growth of socialist student organizations in colleges all over the world.

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN BEGINS

On with the Challengers

by SUB CHASER

"Consistency, thou art indeed a rare jewel," said Comrade William Shakespeare while dangling bare feet and unribbed hook in the still-flowing waters of the Avon some centuries ago. Which makes it imperative for Comrade Sub Chaser to do some tall explaining of his impatience with this noble jewel as exhibited by our Challengers.

The facts of the case are these: For nigh onto a year, you Challengers have been bringing in 200 or slightly more new subs each waning of the moon. Which is durn noble work for 1934—but when it's repeated on the first month of the eventful 1935 wherein we expect to see the transformation of the Challenge into a 8-page—consistency can become doggone exasperating.

NEW YORK (68) New York City: And proud we are, begorra, to start off this roll call with the No. 1 Challenger of the month, that spalpeen of the Bronx, **Sam Portnoy** who got in 24 subs! The City Office gets in 24 subs for new members, accompanied by that monotonous chant of 54—no it's 60—circles and still growing! **Bernard Walitt**, of Circle 5 Jrs. Bronx, gets in his first club of 4.

Brooklyn: Out of this boro comes three clubs of 4 each. One by **Sara Barnett** of Circle 6 Sr. Kings, one by **Andrew Demma** who bussed into Chicago for the L.I.D. convention and has a mustache, and one by **Bob Parker** who has no mustache but has a wife. Which is merely mentioned to show the versatility of some of our Challengers.

Ithaca: Len Lurie cracks open this old Erie Canal town with a club of 4.

PENNSYLVANIA: (29) Philadelphia: The Quaker City is sure beginning to set the pace for other Challenge towns. **Harry Fleischman**, national organizer, gets in 5. **Bernard Siegal**, new Challenge Agent here gets in 7. And city secretary **Nat Weinberg** gets in 6.

Pittsburgh: Tille Smith gets in under the last minute wire with 4 more and a letter that says the "Every Member A Subscriber" campaign is going over with sub-stirring support from all. **Reading:** Clayton Mengel gets in a double-sized club of 8 including the renewal of the hard-working Socialist state legislator, **Darlington Hoopes**.

MISSOURI (23) St. Louis: **Charles Tamcala**, treasurer of the local D.T.J., which is the Czechoslovakian workers' sports organization, sends in 23 subs for members of his club. Thanks, D.T.J.'ers, and here's an idea we hope all branches of all Socialist sports groups adopt!

OHIO (21) Cleveland: **Sam Verne**, in person, handed no less than 18 subs to Sub Chaser while both of us were providing audience for the N.E.C. meeting in this city. And the technique of Sam's sub-getting methods was exposed to our startled gaze. Sam has a mustache too! (Barber's Union! Advertising rates on request), **Toledo Helen Molkin** gets in 6 subs from this metropolis of the Maumee River valley.

MICHIGAN (12) Charlotte: **H.G. Carlisle** gets in a club of 4. **Nashville:** **Francis Becroft** does the same thing.

ILLINOIS (7) and even these 7 subs had to be garnered in ones and twos!

MASSACHUSETTS (5) Boston: **Saul Harris** who is doing a fine organization job out here gets in a club of 4.

CALIFORNIA (4) Los Angeles: From "t'other side of the 'mounting'" **Lillie Goldberg** also gets in 4.

CONNECTICUT (4) New Haven: **Gilbert Davis** comes to life, after a long hibernation, with 4 again.

INDIANA (4) Montezuma: **Paul Rasmussen** has landed and a club is at hand! "From the Halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli" our Challenger-in-chief who is doing a mighty fine job organizing the unemployed gets his subs!

MONTANA (4) Rosebud: It's the Local Rosebud Socialist Party which blooms forth this winter with a club of 4, tra la.

Sub chaser is learning jografy hand over fist keeping tab of you Challengers. But he's calling for all hands on deck to step up the good ship Challenge with some 8 page sails. And that means more subs....more subs.... more subs....

IT WAS HIS WAR



J. P. Morgan, who has been shown by the Senate Munitions investigating committee to have been the key man in dragging the U. S. into the World War to protect his investments in British loans, is shown above, having a good time in England. He made a million or more a year during the war but none of his boys got hurt at the front.

ORGANIZATION BY THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

Winter Activities of League sprout in profusion and variety

The Kenosha, Wisc. circle entered a strong protest against the erecting of a war memorial at the Civic Center plaza. Several representatives spoke to the City Council, and unions and youth clubs are being asked to support our protest.... a successful conference of Ohio Yipsels was held at Cleveland on Jan. 20 and an organization and finance committee to launch a State YPSL Federation was chosen. Pearl Weiner is temporary State Secretary.... No small part in the victory of the Boston dept. store workers was due to the splendid cooperation of the Milwaukee young Socialists.

State YPSL Organizers are being chosen in areas where League Federations have not yet been developed. **Karl Pennington** (Seattle) is the Washington Organizer, and **Betty Bock** (New Haven) is doing the same job in Connecticut.... More YPSL street corner meetings will be held in Milwaukee this summer as a result of the Speakers training class on Thursdays. **Edith Baxter** is the new County Secretary.... The Los Angeles comrades expect their Fifth Annual Banquet on Feb. 10 to spur the organization forward. A study class in Socialist economics is being held.... Circles 1 and 2 St. Louis have an active and harmonious chorus, and 'Chicago swells the surging throng.'

A swell way to get contacts is to produce a play before some other organization. The New Britain, Conn. circle produced "Well, I'll Be Hanged!" at the Waterbury Workmen's Sick and Death Benefit Society.... Bridgeport circles have the same idea

adopted on the National Union (of Father Coughlin) for Social Justice, the recent executions in Soviet Russia, and the Utopian Society. A hearty standing vote of thanks were voted the Cleveland comrades for the efficient arrangements and splendid banquet tendered the N.E.C.

and presented two original plays at a Workmen's Circle affair.... Baltimore circle is starting a library, and an excellent start has been made for a second circle.... Local Bulletins are continuing to sprout.... Philadelphia County adds a bi-weekly "Three Arrows" to the publications list, and California is getting out a monthly Bulletin.... Massachusetts State YPSL is conducting a raffle.... Circle 8 Manhattan, New York reports that they already have 200 books in their library.... 11 Jr. Bronx is organizing an orchestra, and already has a singing group.

Chicago YPSL swung into speedy action in opposition to the proposal to extend the R.O.T.C. into every one of the 34 city high schools. A petition campaign has been started.... Chicago comrades have become theatre-goers and saw "Stevedore" and several Shakespeare's best.... Westminister, Mass. circle, one of our few farm groups, held a joint Xmas party with Farmers Co-operative Union, and presented several plays.... Toledo, Ohio reports that they are working on a puppet show and high school work is not being neglected by their bi-weekly "Student Appeal".... Noah Walter, active NEC member, is working over-time as secretary of the Harlem Labor Committee, which is organizing Negroes into A. F. of L. unions.... Jeanette, Pa. has a fine basket-ball team.... Seattle Jr. Yipsels are doing good work in a Social Science Club at high school.... Real winter sports are engaged in by the Kenosha comrades, with toboggan slides and skiing activities. They're all set for demonstrations, with a large banner just made.... The Hillquit, Jr. circle of Milwaukee held a skating party and has a basket-ball team, besides getting many members out for the Boston store picket line.

Milwaukee Boston Store Strike A Labor Landmark

YOUNG SOCIALISTS AILED AS CLERKS ORGANIZE

Milwaukee—After a labor struggle has been completed it is usually interesting to review things incidental to the struggle. Especially worthy of review and deep interest is the strike of clerks, truck drivers and maintenance workers of the Boston Store in Milwaukee—interesting because of the excellent work of young Socialists on the picket line; worthy of review because it was the first important industrial strike of department store workers in the United States.

Winter Adds to Strikers Suffering
The strike began November 28, 1934 and lasted through six bitter winter weeks before the workers were given recognition. Stubbornness on the part of the store owners was not all that the strikers had to contend with. The pickets were greatly handicapped by the severe Wisconsin winter conditions during the entire strike. A large number of them, during one of the coldest days, were treated for frost-bitten ears and fingers.

The Young People's Socialist League of Milwaukee lent valuable assistance to the strikers; at least four young Socialists were taken from the picket lines and arrested, their enthusiasm and energy in leading the songs and distributing the leaflets making them "marked" in the eyes of the police. Comrade **Hannah Biemiller**, a leader of the Shoppers' League of Milwaukee and wife of the Socialist educational director, was one of those arrested along with several Yipsels on Dec. 13.

Knappe in Jail

As a sideline on the strike, the experiences of "Chuck" Knappe, recently elected County Organizer of the Milwaukee YPSL, with the Milwaukee Police department, is worth narrating. Comrade Knappe was arrested Dec. 29th and held, with several other, for 66 hours without being booked. Churk's curly red hair and chunky figure evidently branded him a dangerous person, since he was fingerprinted no less than seven times, "mugged," and information on his pedigree, proportions, etc., taken down in sufficient detail to preserve forever, to posterity, a perfect description of his anatomy.

His experiences in the county jail, sans comb, shave, face wash, or clean clothes, and the bullying attitude of the police force were made the subject of educational discussions at meetings of the Milwaukee circles; i. e. "Tactics of the Milwaukee Police Department Against Strikers." It is interesting to note, that so fearful is the boss class of the Socialist political strength in this city, that since the first Socialist mayor was elected in 1910, the power of that official over the police department has been taken away by the state legislature.

White Collar Workers Learn Solidarity Lesson

Among those freed with Comrade Biemiller, is former County Secretary of the YPSL, **Harold C. Schrubbe**, although Knappe's case is yet to be tried. The strike was ended on Jan. 11, 1935 by an agreement signed by the employers. Although the agreement only won a partial victory, the strike has won for the Boston store workers, a toehold in organizing successfully, for the first time in the U. S., all the workers in a department store. A lesson of solidarity among white collar sales workers, as well as among the manual workers, was learned that may well set an example for the organization of the universally exploited department store workers throughout the nation.

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